

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
28 January 2009
Lincoln Center**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Role Call

Call to Order: 7:05 PM by James Cavallo

Members Present: James Cavallo, Gordon Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Chris Saricks, Sonja Tiegs, Mark Thoman, Ken Lerner, Jane Amorosi, Wallace Brown

Members Absent: Charley Smart, David Schulz, William Runyon, Jerry Yoksoulian, John Schofield

Guests: None

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A summary of the draft minutes of the 15 October 2008 meeting was given by I. Hlohowskyj, Secretary. The draft minutes were provisionally accepted. I. Hlohowskyj will provide the provisional final minutes to the members for final review and approval before the minutes will be accepted as final and posted to the PDHA website.

The minutes for the Annual Meeting, held 3 December 2008, were unavailable.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer, provided a report on the current FY09 status of PDHA funds. For the period of 1 Nov 2008 through 21 Jan 2009, donations to PDHA totaled \$260.00. Expenditures since 1 Nov 2008 totaled \$362.26, which covered costs for the Fall 2008 newsletter printing and mailing, a 12-month web hosting fee, and the filing fee with the State Attorney General Office. There is also checking balance as of 21 Jan 2009 was \$467.14. The value of the PDHA CD with the Community Bank of Downers Grove (matures on 30 July 2009) as of 21 Jan 2009 is \$2,516.72. Total PDHA assets as of 21 Jan 2009 = \$3,008.60.

G. Goodman also provided a report for FY2008, which covers the time frame of 1 Nov 2007 through 31 October 2008. For FY08, total deposits were \$1,891.05, and total expenses were \$1,766.01. The ending checking balance was \$569.40, and the CD value was \$2,524.85. Total assets for FY08 were \$3,094.25.

4. Project Planning for 2009

Continued Support of the DG Park District Little Sprouts Program: The PDHA was again asked if it could continue its support of the Little Sprouts Program. Previous support included the commitment of matching funds to the program. As part of the discussion, it was suggested by J. Amorosi that PDHA draft and submit a formal resolution to District 58 expressing PDHA's concerns that local children are not sufficiently being exposed to the natural world and encouraging District 58 to continue participation in and support of the Little Sprouts Program. W. Brown asked about other opportunities for the Park District to obtain instructors for the program, such as approaching the DuPage Forest District (FD) about participation by some of its educational staff. J. Cavallo made a motion that PDHA continue to provide \$800 in matching funds to the DG Park District for the Little Sprouts program. K. Lerner seconded the motion and it was accepted unanimously.

W. Brown asked about how to make the Little Sprouts program more important to District 58, asking about how to get the District teachers more strongly involved. J. Cavallo and G. Goodman will discuss this topic first with S. Forsythe of the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center before proceeding with any communications with the curriculum director of District 58. J. Cavallo agreed to prepare a draft resolution to District 58 commending the District in promoting the exposure of DG school children to the natural areas and outdoor activities of Illinois and especially of Lyman Woods, and fostering the development of lifelong appreciation of nature in the children. J. Cavallo will provide a draft of the resolution to the PDHA.

Increasing Publicity of the PDHA: J. Cavallo introduced a discussion about approaches for increasing the public awareness of the PDHA. He suggested some sort of fundraiser with proceeds being used to support activities such as the Little Sprouts Program, the Redevelopment Handbook. K. Lerner suggested a seminar series, with possible topics of the Underground Railroad or a debate on global warming. J. Cavallo suggested seminar topics of prairie vegetation, the historic natural history of the area, gardening with prairie plants, or Conservation at Home, with proceeds going to support the Little Sprouts program. S. Tiegs mentioned that the DuPage Forest Preserve District has a speaker series. J. Cavallo suggested exploring jointly sponsoring a speaker with the Downers Grove Organic Gardening Club. K. Lerner volunteered to lead a committee to explore a joint speaker for sometime in the late April or early May. I. Hlohowskyj offered to initiate discussions with the DG Organic Gardening Club. J. Cavallo asked about the PDHA making some funds available for speaker costs. M. Thoman made a motion to change the "Consultants" line in the proposed budget to "Honorarium." G. Goodman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Lyman Woods Restoration Injury Follow-up: M. Thoman suggested that PDHA conduct follow-up related to previous discussions held between PDHA members and the DG Park District to discuss the restoration injuries that occurred in 2008. During previous meetings, the development of operational procedures by the Park District was discussed, but nothing appears to have occurred in this regard. M. Thoman will attempt

to restart discussions with the Park District on this topic and will collect another set of photos of the previously injured areas to show 'restoration' progress from 2008.

Climate Change: G. Goodman stated that PDHA should continue to raise climate change concerns with the Village of Downers Grove. He identified the Illinois Climate Action Network as coordinating state level activities, and offered to see how ICAN might be incorporated into local efforts by PDHA.

Continued Participation in the Illinois Environmental Council: G. Goodman indicated that the PDHA membership in the Illinois Environmental Council was expiring, and suggested that the PDHA continue its support of the IEC and renew its annual membership. C. Saricks asked about what initiatives the IEC has taken or supported, and M. Thoman asked about past PDHA involvement. G. Goodman provided a summary of the IEC activities (such as helping overturn the Governor's actions on state parks) and past PDHA involvement. I. Hlohowskyj made a motion to continue PDHA membership in the IEC; M. Thoman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Establish relationship with new Forest Preserve Board Members: J. Amorosi suggested that the PDHA establish a relationship with the new DuPage Forest Preserve board members. It was pointed out that one of the new members is very 'anti-restoration.'

Downers Grove TCD3 Process: K. Lerner discussed the TCD3 process that the Village of Downers Grove is using to solicit input from the community for revising the Village Comprehensive Plan. The Village is using the planning process to put items on the agenda for the Village. With this process, the Village is seeking input from individuals and groups. There was agreement that PDHA members should participate, and that there should be a meeting prior to the TCD3 meeting in order to discuss and determine how PDHA will participate. The first TCD3 meeting is scheduled for 4 March 2009. M. Thoman urged all PDHA members to participate in the process by registering on the Village website. Possible PDHA interests to bring to the process could include tree preservation, historic preservation, bicycle routes, and natural areas. K. Lerner asked if the PDHA should meet prior to the March 4 meeting. A PDHA meeting date was set for February 18, 2009 to discuss PDHA participation in the TCD3 process.

Highway Cleanup: Four dates were set for highway cleanup: April 25, June 20, August 22, and October 10.

5. Budget for 2009

Proposed Future Budget: G. Goodman provided a draft proposed budget for FY2009, which includes \$2,230 in expenses funding newsletter production and mailing, attorney support, consultants, membership in the Illinois Environmental Council and Chicago Wilderness Society, rentals, and website hosting. K. Lerner made a motion to accept the proposed budget as amended. S. Tieg seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

6. Other Business

Annual Statement with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General: G. Goodman stated that he will be filing the PDHA annual statement with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, as required, and has filed a similar statement with Federal authorities.

7. Next Meeting – the next meeting of the PDHA will be held on 18 February 2009.

8. Meeting Adjourned – 9:10 PM